

Chapter 6 – Ensembles Model Cornerstone Assessment (co-author)



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Dr. Bret Smith led the research, development, and piloting of the Ensemble MCAs focusing on string music education. He is a cellist, conductor, and string teacher educator who has taught strings and orchestra in a variety of K-12 and private settings as well as university and youth orchestra programs. He is the co-author, with James O. Froseth, of the *Do It! Play Strings* string method series from GIA Publications. He has served as an adjudicator, clinician, and program consultant for numerous state and local string programs, and on the editorial committee for several journals in education and psychology including the *String Research Journal* and the *Bulletin of the Council for Research in Music Education*. His research publications have appeared in the *Journal of Research in Music Education*, the *Bulletin of the Council for Research in Music Education*, and *Psychology of Music*. He has contributed chapters to the *MENC Handbook of Research on Music Learning* published by Oxford University Press, *Engaging Musical Practices: A Sourcebook for Instrumental Music* published by Rowman and Littlefield, and two volumes of the *Assessment in Music Education* series published by GIA. His chapter on music education assessment policy in the United States will appear in the forthcoming *Oxford Handbook of Assessment Policy and Practice in Music Education*.

His interest in assessment has extended to working with accreditation and assessment issues across higher education applications. He is currently representing Central Washington University's faculty in Washington's state capital as a member of the Council of Faculty, serving as graduate coordinator and Interim Associate Chair of CWU's music department, and coordinating CWU's summer MM program in music education. He also serves as faculty Assessment Coordinator through CWU's Office of the Associate Provost.

Dr. Smith holds BM and BS degrees in music and Systematic Musicology from the University of Washington and MM and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Michigan. He is a former member of the faculty of the School of Music at the University of Maryland, College Park.